[Translation]

Profit of ITDC

256 SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the net profit earned by the India Tourism Development Corporation during the last three years and the contribution of the ITDC's hotels thereto;

(b) whether performance of these hotels is satisfactory; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government for improvement in their performance?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) The information is given as under :-

Year	Profit before tax ITDC Hotels Div.		Profit earned by ITDC After tax (Figures are not available separately for Hotel Division)
	(Rs in crores)		(Rs in crores)
1993-94	24 02	8 29	12.21
1994-95	43.17	22 71	28.37
1995-96 (Prov.)	65 19	39 64	43 50

(b) and (c) There has been substantial improvement in the performance of ITDC Hotels during the last three years However improvement in performance is a continuous process and the steps taken in this regard include, aggressive marketing, upgradation/improvement, restructuring of hotels, control of operating costs, development of human resource by imparting training, etc

[English]

Private Airtlines in Bihar

257 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have allowed private airlines to operate air taxies and small aeroplanes for passangers from Patna and Gaya to famous pilgrimage places in Bihar.

(b) if so the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to initiate this step, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No private airline is, at present, operating from Patna and Gaya to other pilgrimage places in Bihar. However, a private company has proposed to operate flights between Patna and Varanasi. Besides, another private operator has proposed to operate to Gaya.

[Translation]

Literacy In Tribal Areas

258. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in comparison to the national average of literacy, the literacy level is very low in the tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the tribal dominated areas where the literacy level is highest and lowest alongwith the percentage thereof, separately;

(d) whether the Government have chalked out any time-bound programme for prmoting this percentage of literacy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). There are some tribal areas where literacy is lower than the national average but there are also some tribal areas where literacy is higher than the national average A statement indicating State/UT-wise percentage of general literacy and literacy percentage among Scheduled Tribes is attached in the given *statement*

(c) The highest percentage of literacy among Scheduled Tribes is in the State of Mizoram, being 52.71%. The lowest percentage of literacy among Scheduled Tribes is in the State of Andhra Pradesh, being 17.26%

(d) and (e) The Government has taken the following steps to raise the literacy percentage of Scheduled Tribes

1. Opening of schools in ST habitations with relaxed norms.
2. Coverage of Tribal population under Operation Blackboard scheme
3. Coverage of Tribal areas under non-formal education.
4. Coverage of Tribal districts in Total Literacy Campaign Programme -

Under this scheme of financial assistance is given to Zilla Saksharta Samities in the proportion of 4:1. This implies that 80% financial liability is of Department of